

What is claimed is:

1 1. A dishwasher comprising:
2 a sump, installed under a washtub, for collecting water;
3 a drain pump, installed at one side of the sump, for pumping to a pressure and thereby
4 draining the water collected in the sump;
5 a drain passage having one end communicating with the drain pump;
6 a backflow-preventing passage installed so as to have a peak point of an inverted U-
7 shape piece, whose entrance end is connected to the other end of the drain passage to prevent
8 the water from flowing backward, disposed higher than the sump;
9 a drain hose having one end connected to the other end of the backflow-preventing
10 passage; and
11 a check valve, installed at the entrance end of the backflow-preventing passage, for
12 opening and closing the entrance end of the backflow-preventing passage according to an
13 operational status of the drain pump.

1 2. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the check valve opens the
2 entrance end of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is actuated and closes
3 the entrance end of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is not actuated.

1 3. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 2, the check valve comprising:
2 a sealing member, hinged with respect to an inner surface of the backflow-preventing
3 passage, for closing the entrance of the backflow-preventing passage; and
4 a support member having a predetermined elasticity, installed between the sealing

5 member and a predetermined point of the inner side of the backflow-preventing passage, to
6 receive and elastically support a distal end of the sealing member when the check valve is
7 opened.

1 4. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, further comprising an annular rib for
2 receiving the sealing member upon closing, the annular rib protruding inwardly from a
3 perimeter surface of the entrance of the backflow-preventing passage.

1 5. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sealing member is formed
2 of a rubber-based material.

1 6. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the support member is a
2 spring pushing the sealing member upon closing the entrance of the backflow-preventing
3 passage, the spring linking the sealing member to the predetermined point of the inner surface
4 of the backflow-preventing passage and being controlled according the pressure of the water
5 flowing in the backflow-preventing passage.

1 7. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 6, wherein the spring pushes the sealing
2 member to close the entrance of the backflow-preventing passage, if the pressure of the water
3 flowing in the backflow-preventing passage drops below a predetermined value.

1 8. The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backflow-preventing
2 passage is partitioned at one side of a dry air intake passage through which external air is
3 drawn for drying.